



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

ISSUED: 1246 PM EST WED FEB 17 2010

JANUARY TIES AS 5TH COLDEST JANUARY IN KEY WEST SINCE 1873

JANUARY 7TH THROUGH 13TH TIES COLDEST WEEK ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST

AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES FOR JANUARY WERE 64.2 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND 63.6 DEGREES AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT. NORMAL JANUARY TEMPERATURES AVERAGE 70.3 AND 69.0 DEGREES...FOR KEY WEST AND MARATHON RESPECTIVELY. THIS AVERAGE FOR KEY WEST RANKS AS THE 5TH COLDEST JANUARY SINCE 1873. THERE WERE TWO PREVIOUS OCCURRENCES OF A 64.2-DEGREE MONTHLY AVERAGE...1886 AND 1978. IN THE PAST 30 YEARS THIS RANKS AS THE 3RD COLDEST JANUARY ON RECORD...BEHIND 2003 AND 1981. THE COLDEST MONTH ON RECORD WAS 1981...WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 61.3 DEGREES.

THESE BELOW-NORMAL AVERAGES WERE PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF AN EXTENDED BLAST OF COLD ARCTIC AIR THAT SPANNED MUCH OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN UNITED STATES. THE COLDEST TEMPERATURES WERE EXPERIENCED THROUGHOUT THE KEYS ON THE MORNINGS OF THE 10TH AND 11TH IN THE WAKE OF AN ADDITIONAL COLD FRONT THAT SWEEPED THROUGH THE AREA.

THROUGHOUT THE KEYS...THE LOWEST TEMPERATURES REPORTED DURING THIS COLD SPELL RANGED BETWEEN 35 DEGREES IN KEY LARGO...37 DEGREES IN PARTS OF MARATHON...40 DEGREES AT BIG PINE KEY AND RAMROD KEY...AND 42 DEGREES IN KEY WEST. THE LOW OF 42 DEGREES IN KEY WEST ON THE 11TH SHATTERED THE DAILY RECORD OF 48...AND IS NOW RANKED AS THE SECOND COLDEST TEMPERATURE EVER RECORDED IN KEY WEST. STILL RETAINING THE TITLE OF COLDEST TEMPERATURE IN KEY WEST IS THE 41 DEGREES MEASURED FIRST ON JANUARY 12TH 1886 AND THEN AGAIN ON JANUARY 13TH 1981.

LOW TEMPERATURES BROKE SIX DIFFERENT DAILY RECORDS IN JANUARY. THESE COLD DAYS AND NIGHTS ALSO ALLOWED FOR JANUARY 7TH THROUGH 13TH 2010 TO TIE WITH DECEMBER 1ST THROUGH 6TH 1876 FOR THE COLDEST WEEK IN KEY WEST...SINCE RECORDKEEPING BEGAN IN THE SUMMER OF 1872. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED FOR MARATHON DUE TO THE SHORTER PERIOD OF OBSERVATIONS.

RAINFALL AT THE KEY WEST AND MARATHON AIRPORTS WERE ALSO BELOW NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. MONTHLY TOTALS WERE 1.15 INCHES AT KEY WEST AND 1.48 INCHES AT MARATHON. THESE VALUES ARE 1.07 AND 1.42 INCHES BELOW NORMAL...RESPECTIVELY.

BELOW ARE THE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR JANUARY...COMPARING 2010 TO 2009 AND THE DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

JANUARY RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2009 IN INCHES

Station – Station Type	2010	Dep. fm Normal	2009	Dep. fm 2009
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	1.45		N/A	N/A
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	1.35	-0.87	0.64	+0.71
Key West International Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	1.15	-1.07	0.81	+0.34
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	1.15		0.64	+0.51
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	1.42		1.70	-0.28
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	3.51		1.10	+2.41
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	1.48	-1.42	0.68	+0.88
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	1.34	-1.56	0.48	+0.86
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	1.37	-1.53	0.36	+1.01
Islamorada – <i>COOP</i>	1.23		0.23	+1.00
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	1.82		0.31	+1.51
Key Largo – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	1.29		0.20	+1.09

ALL SITES RECEIVED MORE RAINFALL THIS PAST JANUARY COMPARED TO JANUARY 2009...WITH CUDJOE KEY BEING THE ONE EXCEPTION. THE CUDJOE SITE ENDED THE MONTH DOWN A LITTLE OVER A QUARTER-INCH. ON THE OPPOSITE END OF THE SPECTRUM BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK RECEIVED ALMOST TWO AND A HALF INCHES MORE RAINFALL COMPARED TO JANUARY LAST YEAR.

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AND FOR MARATHON/DUCK KEY THEY ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004.

\$\$

DR